



**We Are Columbia**

# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Mayor Benjamin participates in CityLab summit**

Columbia, SC – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin is one of only 30 mayors invited to join some of the world's top urban experts, city planners, writers, technologists, economists, and designers in Los Angeles this week to participate in the second annual "CityLab: Urban Solutions to Global Challenges" summit.

This groundbreaking project, hosted by The Atlantic in partnership with The Aspen Institute and Bloomberg Philanthropies, brings together an incredible group of global mayors and urban thinkers and engages them in conversations about the bold, scalable ideas and solutions that are transforming metro areas around the world into more livable and sustainable cities.

"It's a true honor to be invited to participate in this remarkable summit and a wonderful opportunity to work with some of the most pioneering minds in the world," said Mayor Benjamin. "Programs like this not only help us find new approaches and creative solutions to long standing challenges, they help put our city on the cutting edge of technology and innovation opening up a whole new world of possibilities."

Just recently, named Best Conference of 2013 at the FAME Awards, the goal of the 3-day program is to foster constructive dialogue about issues ranging from closing the income gap to improving constituent service and create scalable solutions for city leaders to share with their constituencies across the world.

Other mayors participating alongside Mayor Benjamin include:

- Mayor Kasim Reed (Atlanta, GA),
- Mayor Eric Garcetti (Los Angeles, CA)
- Mayor Betsy Hodges (Minneapolis, MN)
- Mayor William Peduto (Pittsburg, PA)
- Mayor Mitch Landrieu (New Orleans, LA)
- Mayor Pam O'Connor (Santa Monica, CA)
- Mayor Tom Barrett (Milwaukee, WI)
- Mayor Greg Fischer (Louisville, KY)
- Mayor Jean Quan (Oakland, CA)
- Mayor Dayne Walling (Flint, MI)
- Mayor Xavier Trias (City of Barcelona, Spain)
- Mayor Nir Barkat (City of Jerusalem, Israel)
- Mayor Denis Coderre (City of Montreal, Canada)
- Mayor Yiorgos Kaminis (City of Athens, Greece)
- Mayor Dario Nardella (City of Florence, Italy)

To learn more about the 2014 CityLab: Urban Solutions to Global Challenges summit, visit <http://www.theatlantic.com/live/events/citylab/2014/>.

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